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San Francisco in 1915. Mr. Polk was associated for twelve years with Mr. D. H. Burnham and collaborated with him in making the San Francisco plan. Mr. Faville is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and got his training in the office of McKim, Mead and White. Mr. Ward received his education exclusively in the west, having resided since boyhood in California.

"THE BETTER  
CITY"

Boston having set her face toward civic betterment moves steadily in that direction but with characteristic deliberation. The *Bulletin* recently published by the Metropolitan Improvement League of that city sets forth an impressive list of improvements completed within the last year or under construction, to show that real progress is being made. These embrace harbor improvements, transportation facilities, parks, playgrounds, public buildings, streets and public monuments. The most notable perhaps is the development of the Charles River Basin which should prove of enormous value as an addition to the recreative resources of the city. On the first of last July, this work being completed, the care and maintenance of the Basin was passed over to the Metropolitan Park Commission with the understanding that the recreative opportunities which it provided would be well and intelligently developed. Already it is said the River bank esplanade has become one of the greatest and best appreciated public promenades in the city, and the facilities for aquatic pleasure offered by the Basin are utilized to a remarkable extent. In developing her water-front Boston is far in advance of other American cities. Attention is called in the *Bulletin* to the necessity of rebuilding the bridges on the Basin as one of the most important features of development, and reference is made to Mr. Larz Anderson's generous offer to supply the additional funds required for a monumental new bridge, connecting Harvard University with Soldiers' Field, as "suggesting the possibility of similar public-spirited activities in re-

lation to other bridges across the river." The Metropolitan Improvement League, through its secretary, Mr. Sylvester Baxter, combats forcibly in this report any encroachment on park property, maintaining that all the parks should be held as sacred as Boston Common is, and that park lands were taken primarily and solely for park purposes. Through the income of the Parkman Fund the improvement of several city parks, but most especially the Common, has recently been made possible, and Mr. Arthur A. Shurtleff, who is a member of the League and at the same time an expert landscape architect, has been appointed professional adviser to the Boston Park Department. Some progress has been made in planting shade trees in the city, through the cooperation of private individuals, notably on Beacon street, but next to none on the treeless islands in Boston Bay. Apparently the "necessity of beauty" has not as yet made a sufficiently strong appeal to those who hold the city's purse strings. But improvement in the East moves forward slowly; workers and supporters are added one by one, it is not as in the West a general contagion which animates a precipitous plunge wherein work is executed, as it were, with a whoop and shout in the twinkling of an eye. If such a contagion should strike Boston how amazing would be the result! As it is, inclination is shown to follow Western example. The possibility of holding an outdoor exhibition of sculpture such as has been successfully held in Chicago is being considered by the League, as well as an exhibition of pictures relating to "Picturesque Boston," similar to those held in certain cities west of the Alleghenies, is projected. To those working for civic betterment this *Bulletin Number 2*, published under the title "The Better City," is heartily commended.

PRACTICAL ART  
IN ST. PAUL

Employers of artists and designers generally complain that the schools do not prepare students for practical work; while, on the other hand, students who have put in three or four years in art